

Stockton to Connect Trained Job Seekers With Tourism Industry Employers Through State Grant

Dept. of Labor Grant to Create Retail Hospitality & Tourism Talent Network

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Galloway, NJ The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will become the lead agency in South Jersey for a Retail Hospitality and Tourism Talent Network, connecting job seekers with

The state Department of Labor and Workforce Development this week announced it was awarding a \$200,000 Talent Network grant to Stockton. Talent Networks reach out to businesses, workforce organizations, training providers and other educational institutions to increase the quality of job placements for workers and to provide businesses with the trained staff they need. Prospective trainers will bid on contracts to be awarded by the Talent Network.

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economic challenges posed by the storm. The Recovery Talent Network is designed to assess the overall needs of impacted employers, while the Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Talent Network will assist employers in a major New Jersey industry cluster that suffered set-backs plained Harold Wirths, commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

with opportunities to hire the best trained and most qualified employees through training Studies, who will oversee the development and implementation of the Talent Network.

McNeill said.

local Workforce Investment Boards, various Chambers of Commerce and merchant associations, the New Jersey Travel Industry Association and the Hurricane Sandy Recovery

It has been calculated that for every 180 visitors to New Jersey, a new job is created. Tourism and Hospitality spending accounts for nearly \$40 billion of the state gross domestic product, 51 percent of which is produced in South Jersey, McNeill noted.

According to the New Jersey Bureau of Labor and Market Information, the tourism industry is a major generator of employment along the Jersey Shore. This economic activity is a

-sector workers are employed in the leisure, hospitality and retail segment of the economy, with over 54 percent of private-sector workers concentrated in those jobs in Atlantic and Cape May counties.

Some 41.8 percent, or 133,257 workers, out of the 318,560 employees directly related to the New Jersey tourism industry come from Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May counties, according to the 2012 New Jersey Economic Impact Report on tourism economics.

said McNeill.

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